

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A billing system comprising:

a server for sending a service program stored and permission information regarding distribution to a communication network in response to a predetermined request; and

a plurality of terminals connected to the communication network, wherein one of the plurality of terminals behaves as a server terminal, the server terminal receives the service program and the permission information from the server via the communication network and distributes the service program to the other terminals via the communication network on the basis of the permission information, and the other terminals receive the service program from the server terminal via the communication network,

wherein the server charges the server terminal for the number of the distributed service programs.

12. (New) The billing system according to claim 11, wherein the permission information is the number of the other terminals to be permitted the distribution.

13. (New) The billing system according to claim 11, wherein the service program includes a server program that enables the one of the plurality of terminals to function as a server terminal.

14. (New) A billing system comprising:

a server for sending a service program stored and permission information

regarding distribution to a communication network in response to a predetermined request;

a plurality of terminals connected to the communication network, wherein one of the plurality of terminals behaves as a server terminal, the server terminal receives the service program and the permission information from the server via the communication network and distributes the service program to the other terminals via the communication network on the basis of the permission information, and the other terminals receive the service program from the server terminal via the communication network; and

a billing server for charging the other terminals for the distribution,

wherein each of the other terminals notifies the billing server to charge for the distribution, and the billing server carries out the charge in response to the notification.

15. (New) The billing system according to claim 14, wherein the permission information is the number of the other terminals to be permitted the distribution.
16. (New) The billing system according to claim 14, wherein the service program includes a server program that enables the one of the plurality of terminals to function as a server terminal.